M 29/2/987

Preprint from the 1987

BUREAU OF MINES MINERALS YEARBOOK

The Mineral Industry of Malta

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

READEX FICHE best copy available

I 28.37/a 2:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • Manuel J. Lujan, Jr., Secretary

BUREAU OF MINES • T S Ary, Director

This publication is a chapter from the current Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbook, comprising *Volume I, Metals and Minerals; Volume II, Area Reports: Domestic; Volume III, Area Reports: International.* The separate volumes of the Yearbook are sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The Mineral Industry of Malta

By E. Shekarchi[1]

Malta's production of lime, limestone, and salt in 1987 remained at the same levels as in previous years. All of these products were consumed in the local construction industry, and Malta was obliged to import all of its metal and fuel commodities and industrial minerals.

The election results of May 1987 produced the most significant change in Malta's political scene since the island became a republic in 1974. The Socialists were voted out after 13 years of uninterrupted power, and the Nationalists took control. The Nationalists inherited a country dominated economically by the state, which controlled all utilities, the banks, shipyards, and telecommunications. The Government was the leading employer with 46% of the working population on its payroll.

The Nationalist government assumed a positive attitude toward private and foreign investment, with the intention of gaining new technology and managerial skills that were in short supply in Malta. It welcomed ventures in aviation, information handling systems, light engineering, and optical equipment. Prospective foreign investors were offered a number of incentives, such as government-leased factories at concessional rates, tax exemptions for imported capital equipment and raw materials, tax reduction on reinvested profits and accelerated depreciation allowances. Also, the Government offered foreign oil companies a number of offshore areas through oil-production-sharing contracts. These areas were in addition to the oil concessions previously awarded south of Malta, where drilling had been suspended as a result of a median-line dispute with Libya.

Although tourism remained a substantial source of foreign exchange in 1987, earning about $370 million,[2] Malta's two largest Government-owned companies, Malta Drydocks Co. and Malta Shipbuilding Co. continued to counter the worldwide recession in ship-repair work by diversifying into new shipbuilding, renovation of passenger liners, and industrial steelwork. The total income of the two shipbuilding companies contributed more than $70 million in 1987.

[1]Supervisory physical scientist, Division of International Minerals.

[2]Where necessary, values have been converted from Maltese lira (ML) to U.S. dollars at the rate of ML2.55=US$1.00 for 1987.

Table 1.—Malta: Estimated production of mineral commodities[1]

Commodity		1983[2]	1984[2]	1985	1986	1987
Lime	cubic meters	5,080	5,474	5,500	5,500	5,500
Limestone	thousand cubic meters	508	652	700	650	600
Salt	metric tons	150	92	100	100	100

[1]Table includes data available through May 15, 1988.

[2]Reported figure.

Table 2.—Malta: Exports and reexports of mineral commodities[1]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1985	1986	Destination, 1986	
			United States	Other (principal)
METALS				
Aluminum: Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	177	293	--	All to Italy.
Semimanufactures				
value, thousands	$34	$1,659	$60	Italy $1,597; West Germany $1.
Copper: Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	278	170	--	Italy 64; Netherlands 50; West Germany 37.
Semimanufactures				
value, thousands	--	$2	(2)	Mainly to Italy.
Iron and steel: Metal:				
Scrap	11,798	5,427	--	Italy 3,978; Spain 1,074; Netherlands 109.
Steel, primary forms	--	2	--	All to West Germany.
Semimanufactures:				
Wire value, thousands	$2	$16	--	All to Italy.
Tubes, pipes, fittings do.	$4	$83	--	Italy $82.
Castings and forgings, rough do.	r$302	$745	--	Belgium-Luxembourg $556; Algeria $189.
Lead: Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	189	729	--	Italy 561; West Germany 118; United Kingdom 60.
Semimanufactures				
value, thousands	(2)	--		
Nickel: Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	3	7	--	United Kingdom 4; West Germany 3.
Semimanufactures				
value, thousands	--	$2	--	All to West Germany.
Silver:				
Waste and sweepings do.	$2	--		
Metal including alloys, unwrought and partly wrought do.	$2	--		
Tin: Metal including alloys, semimanufactures do.	--	$1	--	Mainly to Syria.
Zinc: Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	68	61	--	West Germany 33; Italy 15; United Kingdom 13.
Semimanufactures				
value, thousands	$1	(2)	--	All for ship stores.
Other: Ashes and residues	--	19	--	All to United Kingdom.
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS				
Abrasives, n.e.s.:				
Dust and powder of precious and semiprecious stones including diamond value, thousands	$18	--		
Grinding and polishing wheels and stones do.	$144	$696	--	Australia $325; Yugoslavia $170; West Germany $154.
Diamond: Gem, not set or strung do.	$764	$3,392	--	All to Belgium-Luxembourg.
Fertilizer materials: Crude, n.e.s.	207	70	--	All to Italy.
Stone, sand and gravel:				
Dimension stone:				
Crude and partly worked value, thousands	--	$14	--	Do.
Worked do.	72	$9	--	United Kingdom $6; Italy $2; Belgium-Luxembourg $1.
Sulfur: Sulfuric acid do.	(2)	--		
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS				
Petroleum refinery products:				
Lubricants 42-gallon barrels	2,862	1,531	--	West Germany 1; bunkers 1,530.
Residual fuel oil do.	64,230	--		
Bitumen and other residues do.	--	88	--	All to Italy.

r Revised.
[1] Table prepared by Josef Plachy.
[2] Less than 1/2 unit.

Table 3.—Malta: Imports of mineral commodities[1]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1985	1986	Sources, 1986	
			United States	Other (principal)
METALS				
Aluminum:				
Oxides and hydroxides value, thousands	$4	$19	(2)	Switzerland $9; Italy $5; France $4.
Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	--	1	--	All from West Germany.
Unwrought value, thousands	(2)	$521	(2)	Italy $334; United Kingdom $139; Netherlands $45.
Semimanufactures do	$1,032	$7,487	$74	Italy $5,699; United Kingdom $664; West Germany $266.
Arsenic: Metal including alloys, all forms do	--	$1	--	All from Sweden.
Beryllium: Metal including alloys, all forms do	(2)	--		
Chromium: Oxides and hydroxides do	(2)	$16	--	United Kingdom $13; West Germany $3.
Cobalt: Oxides and hydroxides do	(2)	--		
Columbium and tantalum: Metal including alloys, all forms, tantalum do	(2)	--		
Copper: Metal including alloys:				
Unwrought	1	15	--	United Kingdom 14.
Semimanufactures value, thousands	$233	$1,478	$3	United Kingdom $752; France $263; Italy $223.
Iron and steel:				
Iron ore and concentrate, pyrite, roasted	8	6	--	All from Yugoslavia.
Metal:				
Scrap	--	529	--	Netherlands 527; West Germany 2.
Pig iron, cast iron, related materials[3]	7,818	7,631	--	Greece 7,135; Canada 320; Czechoslovakia 133.
Ferroalloys:				
Ferromanganese	--	1	--	All from United Kingdom.
Unspecified	20	48	--	Do.
Steel, primary forms	6,044	6,342	--	United Kingdom 1,849; Spain 1,781; Italy 1,476.
Semimanufactures:				
Bars, rods, angles, shapes, sections value, thousands	$853	$7,131	$2	United Kingdom $2,607; Belgium-Luxembourg $2,151; West Germany $972.
Universals, plates, sheets do	$1,706	$7,988	(2)	Romania $2,119; West Germany $1,981; Czechoslovakia $1,168.
Hoop and strip do	$46	$235	--	Italy $149; West Germany $64; United Kingdom $11.
Rails and accessories do	$19	$8	--	Netherlands $7; Belgium-Luxembourg $1.
Wire do	$217	$998	(2)	Italy $456; United Kingdom $137; Poland $135.
Tubes, pipes, fittings do	$727	$5,204	$3	United Kingdom $1,845; Belgium-Luxembourg $1,225; Italy $854.
Castings, and forgings, rough do	$5	(2)	--	All from United Kingdom.
Lead:				
Oxides do	$19	$60	--	United Kingdom $32; West Germany $28.
Metal including alloys:				
Unwrought	191	194	--	United Kingdom 193; Italy 1.
Semimanufactures value, thousands	$8	$27	--	United Kingdom $10; Italy $9; Japan $4.
Magnesium: Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	--	200	--	All from West Germany.
Unwrought	--	100	--	All from United Kingdom.
Semimanufactures value, thousands	(2)	$2	(2)	Mainly from West Germany.
Manganese: Oxides do	--	$2	--	Mainly from Japan.
Mercury do	(2)	(2)	--	Mainly from United Kingdom.
Nickel: Metal including alloys:				
Unwrought	8	3	--	All from United Kingdom.
Semimanufactures value, thousands	$45	$246	--	West Germany $131; United Kingdom $112; Greece $2.
Platinum-group metals: Metals including alloys, unwrought and partly wrought do	--	(2)	--	All from West Germany.

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.—Malta: Imports of mineral commodities[1] —Continued

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1985	1986	Sources, 1986: United States	Sources, 1986: Other (principal)
METALS —Continued				
Silver:				
Waste and sweepings value, thousands	(2)	$2	--	All from United Kingdom.
Metal including alloys, unwrought and partly wrought do.	26,726	51,635	--	United Kingdom 31,082; West Germany 20,360.
Tin:				
Oxides do.	(2)	--		
Metal including alloys:				
Unwrought	(2)	6	--	All from Italy.
Semimanufactures value, thousands	$179	$1,900	--	United Kingdom $841; Italy $337; France $65.
Titanium: Oxides do.	$108	$521	$166	United Kingdom $243; West Germany $103.
Uranium and/or thorium: Metal including alloys, all forms do.	(2)	--		
Zinc:				
Oxides do.	$10	$45	--	Netherlands $29; United Kingdom $6. West Germany $5.
Blue powder	2	--		
Metal including alloys:				
Scrap	(2)	1	--	All from Netherlands.
Unwrought	134	145	--	France 90; Belgium-Luxembourg 38; Netherlands 17.
Semimanufactures value, thousands	$10	$84	--	Belgium-Luxembourg $37; Netherlands $20; United Kingdom $10.
Other:				
Ores and concentrates	2	--		
Base metals including alloys, all forms	(2)	(2)	--	Mainly from West Germany.
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS				
Abrasives, n.e.s.:				
Natural: Corundum, emery, pumice, etc value, thousands	$20	$96	--	Italy $54; Greece $18; West Germany $17.
Artificial: Corundum do.	$12	$28	(2)	Yugoslavia $26; Italy $1; United Kingdom $1.
Dust and powder of precious and semi-precious stones including diamond do.	$18	$13	--	Belgium-Luxembourg $9; Ghana $3; United Kingdom $1.
Grinding and polishing wheels and stones do.	$95	$531	$3	Italy $202; Yugoslavia $168; West Germany $78.
Asbestos, crude do.	(2)	--		
Barite and witherite do.	$2	$59	--	United Kingdom $58.
Boron materials:				
Crude natural borates do.	--	(2)	--	All from Italy.
Oxides and acids do.	$1	$3	--	West Germany $1; Italy $1; United Kingdom $1.
Cement	187,255	162,840	--	Turkey 79,334; U.S.S.R. 44,810; Bulgaria 30,190.
Chalk value, thousands	$11	$56	--	United Kingdom $27; France $14; Italy $5.
Clays, crude	525	406	--	United Kingdom 332; Italy 74.
Cryolite and chiolite value, thousands	$3	$2	--	Mainly from Yugoslavia.
Diamond:				
Gem, not set or strung do.	$705	$4,242	--	Ghana $1,506; Angola $1,214; Belgium-Luxembourg $650.
Industrial stones do.	$21	$331	--	Ghana $325; Belgium-Luxembourg $6.
Diatomite and other infusorial earth do.	$5	$32	--	Italy $15; West Germany $7; United Kingdom $7.
Fluorspar do.	(2)	(2)	--	All from Norway.
Fertilizer materials:				
Crude, n.e.s	--	2,907	--	Italy 2,906; Netherlands 1.
Manufactured:				
Ammonia value, thousands	$5	$2	--	United Kingdom $8; West Germany $6; France $4.
Nitrogenous do.	2,113	2,032	--	Italy 1,267; Romania 200; West Germany 100.
Phosphatic do.	55	15	--	West Germany 14.
Potassic do.	4	--		
Unspecified and mixed do.	639	415	2	West Germany 223; Belgium-Luxembourg 140; United Kingdom 41.

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.—Malta: Imports of mineral commodities[1] —Continued

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1985	1986	Sources, 1986	
			United States	Other (principal)
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS —Continued				
Graphite, natural	--	(2)	--	All from Italy.
Gypsum and plaster .. value, thousands	$10	$38	--	Spain $27; West Germany $8; Italy $2.
Lime	--	5	--	Mainly from United Kingdom.
Magnesium compounds value, thousands	$1	$1	--	Do.
Mica:				
Crude including splittings and waste do.	$1	$9	--	United Kingdom $8.
Worked including agglomerated do.	(2)	$1	--	Mainly from United Kingdom.
Nitrates, crude do.	(2)	--		
Pigments, mineral:				
Natural, crude do.	$1	$11	--	All from United Kingdom.
Iron oxides and hydroxides, processed do.	$3	$26	--	United Kingdom $17; West Germany $5; Spain $2.
Precious and semiprecious stones other than diamond:				
Natural do.	$25	$8	--	West Germany $2; Taiwan $1; Thailand $1.
Synthetic do.	(2)	$3	--	West Germany $2.
Salt and brine do.	$27	$277	--	United Kingdom $219; Italy $51; West Germany $4.
Sodium compounds, n.e.s.: Carbonate, manufactured	18	140	--	Mainly from Turkey.
Stone, sand and gravel:				
Dimension stone:				
Crude and partly worked value, thousands	$248	$1,914	--	Italy $1,889; Portugal $13; Belgium-Luxembourg $12.
Worked do.	$3	$28	--	Italy $25; India $2.
Gravel and crushed rock do.	$117	$828	(2)	Italy $816; United Kingdom $7; Sweden $4.
Quartz and quartzite do.	$3	$21	--	United Kingdom $8; Italy $7; Belgium-Luxembourg $4.
Sand other than metal-bearing	1,546	[3]1,270	--	United Kingdom 1,062; Belgium-Luxembourg 186; Italy 21.
Sulfur:				
Elemental:				
Crude including native and by-product	60	--		
Colloidal, precipitated, sublimed	45	93	--	Italy 91; United Kingdom 2.
Dioxide value, thousands	(2)	$4	--	United Kingdom $2; Italy $1.
Sulfuric acid do.	$9	$114	--	Italy $49; Netherlands $45; United Kingdom $10.
Talc, steatite, soapstone, pyrophyllite do.	$8	$61	$4	Italy $37; Norway $9; United Kingdom $7.
Other: Crude do.	$3	$6	--	United Kingdom $4; Austria $1.
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS				
Asphalt and bitumen, natural	4	2	2	
Carbon:				
Carbon black value, thousands	$58	$286	$14	Italy $126; West Germany $91; Canada $43.
Gas carbon do.	--	$9	--	All from United Kingdom.
Coal:				
Anthracite and bituminous	212,081	184,235	--	West Germany 93,640; Italy 37,267; Spain 34,021.
Briquets of anthracite and bituminous coal	9	19	--	Australia 16; Italy 3.
Lignite including briquets	--	1	--	All from United Kingdom.
Coke and semicoke	--	31	--	United Kingdom 16; Italy 15.
Peat including briquets and litter	292	262	--	Ireland 105; United Kingdom 94; Netherlands 63.
Petroleum refinery products:				
Mineral jelly and wax[3] 42-gallon barrels	2,404	2,867	19	Hungary 2,292; West Germany 968; United Kingdom 345.
Lubricants[3] do.	23,687	23,478	37	Italy 9,197; Belgium-Luxembourg 7,210; United Kingdom 6,397.
Bitumen and other residues do.	25,379	38,872	--	Spain 38,849; United Kingdom 14; Netherlands 9.
Bituminous mixtures value, thousands	$26	$240	--	Spain $154; United Kingdom $50; France $18.

[1]Table prepared by Josef Plachy.
[2]Less than 1/2 unit.
[3]Totals are incomplete owing to unreported quantities.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1989— 242- 377/ 82035